



Tuesday, April 24: Venice at last! We parked our car at the Piazzale Roma garage, grabbed our bags and headed for the dock where we boarded a vaporetto for a boat ride down the Grand Canal. We landed at the Rialto Bridge, where our hotel, the Antica Locanda Sturion was located.



The Rialto Bridge over the Grand Canal







After dropping off our bags, we walked to Piazza San Marco.



Bridge of Sighs

Doge's Palace







The most wonderful thing to see in Venice is Venice itself, so we walked, and walked through the tiny alleys and across the bridges and just enjoyed being in such a beautiful place.

In the evening, we stopped to enjoy one of the three orchestras playing in Piazza San Marco. After another wonderful dinner we finally turned in for the night.







After an entire day of walking, we were slightly daunted when we returned to the hotel only to remember we had five flights of steps to climb!



Wednesday, April 25: We rose early and headed for the Doge's Palace. It was a pleasant surprise to find the tour through the palace well marked and well organized ... a rarity for a museum in Italy.







Sharon on the Bridge of Sighs leading from the Doge's Palace to the prison.



Our fearless tour guide studies his map.



After leaving the palace, we climbed to the roof of San Marco's for the view, the horses and the mosaics.







No visit to Venice is complete without a ride in a gondola!

On Wednesday night, we attended a concert of 18th century music, performed at the Scuola San Giovanni by musicians and dancers in period costume.



Thursday, April 26: It was a gorgeous day for a boat ride to the tiny island city of Burano.







Burano is famous for its lace and its colorful houses. Sharon & Bettie visited the lace museum, and we had a great lunch where Nick said "This is the BEST food I ever had in my whole life!"







Coming back to Venice from Burano late on Thursday, we wandered the far reaches of the island, far from where most tourists go. After many twists and turns we finally reached a restaurant near the Arsenale where Sharon & Gary had eaten on their first trip to Venice twelve years ago. The owner, Paulo, welcomed us with a lovely meal and a complimentary glass of wine and dessert.

